

About LAFCO



Local Agency Formation Commission of Santa Clara County



What is LAFCO?

Local Agency Formation Commission

Independent Agency with Countywide Jurisdiction
Established by State Law with a mission to:

- Encourage Orderly Boundaries
- Discourage Urban Sprawl
- Preserve Agricultural and Open Space Lands
- Ensure Efficient Delivery of Services

What Gives LAFCO its Authority?

California Government Code Section 56000, *et seq.* entitled:

CORTESE-KNOX-HERTZBERG
LOCAL GOVERNMENT
REORGANIZATION ACT OF 2000





Who is on Santa Clara LAFCO?

The Commission consists of:

- Two County Supervisors
- One Council Member from the City of San Jose
- One Council Member from Any Other City
- One Public Member

Plus, Alternates in Each Category

No Special District Representation

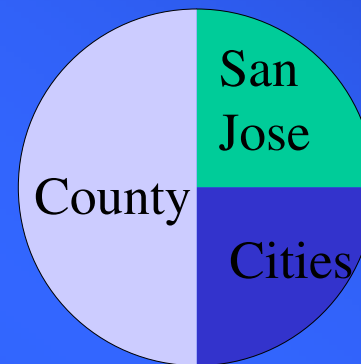
How is Santa Clara LAFCO Funded and Staffed?

- Funded Jointly by Cities and the County

50% (County)

25% (San Jose)

25% (Other Cities)



- Contracts with County for Staffing and Facilities

Staff takes Policy Direction from LAFCO



What Does LAFCO Do?

LAFCO has authority to approve or deny:

- ➔ City and Special District Boundary changes:
 - Annexations
 - Detachments
 - Formations
 - Incorporations
 - Consolidations/Mergers/Dissolutions
- ➔ Extension of Services Outside an Agency's Boundaries



What Else Does LAFCO Do?

LAFCO is Required to :

- Establish and Update Sphere of Influence (SOI) Boundaries Every 5 Years
- Establish and Update Urban Service Area (USA) Boundaries
- Conduct Service Reviews Prior to SOI Updates



What is a Sphere of Influence?

State definition:

- Physical boundary and service area of a city or a special district

In Santa Clara County:

- Definition relevant for Special districts
- For cities, the USA is more critical boundary for determining the location of urban development



What is an Urban Service Area?

- Indicates areas which will be annexed by cities and provided with urban services within 5 years
- USAs and the Cities/County/LAFCO joint urban development policies form the foundation of land use planning in Santa Clara County



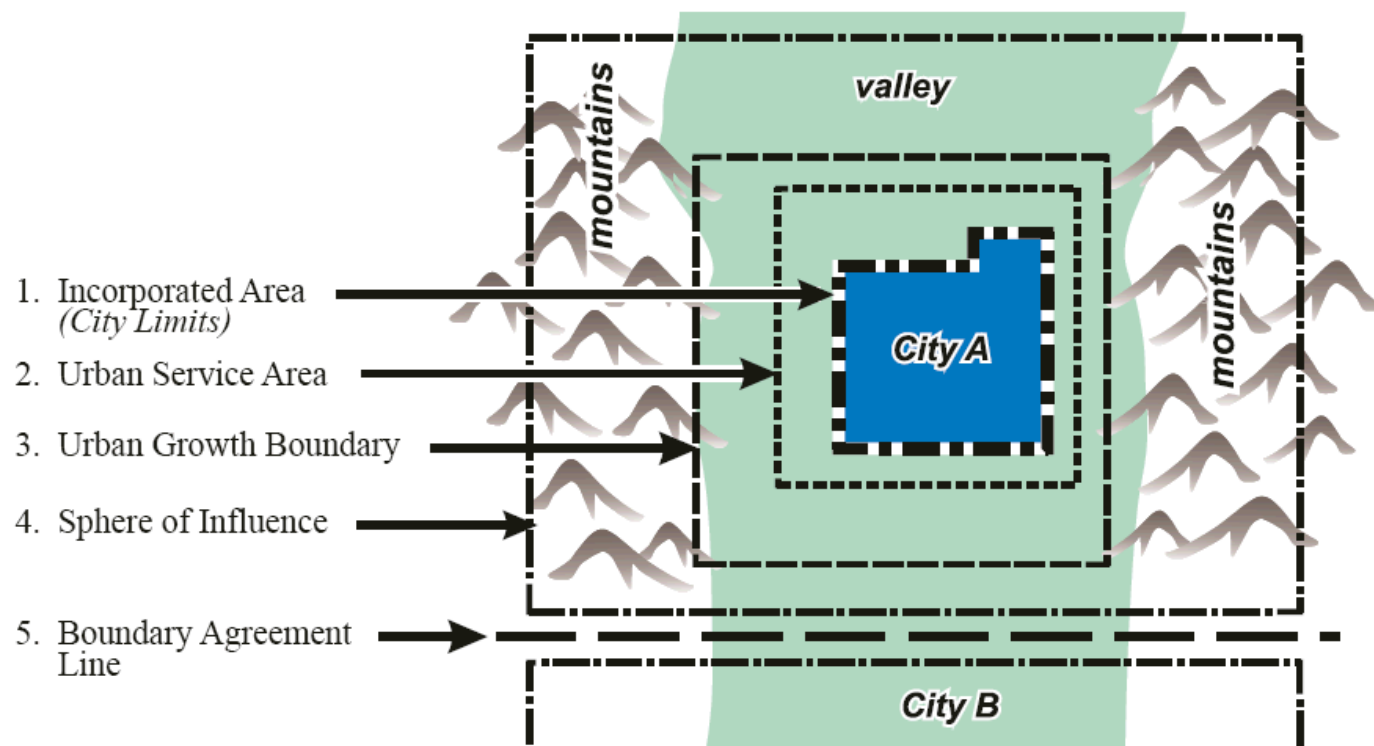
What are Joint Urban Development Policies?

Long-standing urban development policies between LAFCO, 15 cities and county:

- Urban development should occur within cities
- County will not allow urban development in the unincorporated areas
- Cities to adopt urban service areas to indicate lands that they are willing and able to provide urban services and facilities to in the next five years

Planning Boundaries

Hypothetical Relationships Among Boundaries Within Santa Clara County





Contact Information

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